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Brian Amme, Project Manager
BLM,
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Subject: Comment on BLM Programmatic EIS for pesticide Vegetation
Treatments in 17 Western States

Mr. Brian Amme,

- 1 I have reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's proposal for pesticide applications to public lands in western states. I am writing to urge BLM to choose Option 3 (C) in its proposal, wherein alternative control methods, other than pesticides, would be used. As a user (and citizen owner) of these public lands, I am deeply concerned with allowing such a large use of pesticides on public lands, including National Monuments and National Conservation areas.
- 2 An integral part of this proposal involves aerial spraying of toxic pesticides, which increases negative impacts on non-targeted vegetation, wildlife, cattle, and people, including recreationists, tourists, and native peoples (pesticide application areas include Alaska, where native fishing and plant gathering is widespread). Although the proposal claims care would be taken in applying the pesticides in a controlled manner, these chemicals are known to drift much further than anticipated and cause unexpected health and ecological impacts. The pesticides that would be used include persistent and mobile chemicals, including known developmental and reproductive toxins.
- 3 The application of herbicides or pesticides will have broad and lasting ramifications that cannot be foreseen. BLM MUST NOT pursue application of chemicals in such a broad fashion to our public lands. This would be just one more mistake in a series of error made by the agency as it continually attempts to manipulate natural systems that function just fine without your interventions. Land and wildlife managers and fire personnel have a vast array of alternative vegetation management tools to choose from, without having to resort to applying toxic chemicals to our public lands.

Please choose Option 3 (C). Thank you for your care and consideration,


James P. McMahon